

The Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1908.

PROTECTION AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

A delegation of Virginia tobacco men went to Washington yesterday to present to the Ways and Means Committee reasons why the tariff on imported tobacco should be increased. With these private citizens, and with the association which they represent, The Times-Dispatch has, of course, not the slightest desire to find fault. They have an entire right to pursue their interests unmolested in all ways that commend themselves to their intellects and accord with their convictions. So far, however, as the desires of Virginia tobacco growers and those of the peanut growers are to be considered as implying a Democratic demand for protection, The Times-Dispatch is, unhappily, not able to convince itself that their arguments can consistently be supported by a Democratic newspaper.

There is no more radical or basic difference between the two great parties than in their respective positions upon the tariff. They split cleanly on this elemental question of special privilege versus the greatest good of the greatest number. This division insures a party for those who believe in a tariff for revenue, and a party for those who believe in a tariff for protection. The door is always open for easy transit from one party to the other, as changing conditions react on personal beliefs; and it seems hardly intelligent for any one to bear the banner of equal rights while fighting the fight of privilege. The voice of protection, in short, is a Republican voice, and the party for those who believe in protection and try to get it is, obviously, the Republican party.

In this particular case, we believe it to be a fact that a very large proportion of the bright tobacco upon which protection is now sought is sold to the American Tobacco Company, and by it manufactured into cigarettes. Trust-made goods are expressly denied the protection of any duty whatever by the principles laid down in the Denver platform. We believe it to be a fact that the American Tobacco Company would be a large, if not the chief, beneficiary of any tariff on imported Turkish tobacco. We believe it to be a fact that such a tariff would, sooner or later, be injurious to the interests of the unprotected and unorganized consumer. Under these circumstances we find it impossible to reconcile a demand for this tariff with any conception of Democracy with which we are familiar.

Some of our esteemed contemporaries, like the Newport News Times-Herald, the Norfolk Landmark and the Petersburg Index-Appel, take quite a different view. They tell us that the voters of the country emphatically indorsed protection at the last election; that this is therefore a protective country, and that since Democrats are compelled to live under a protective system, it is only fair that they should share the benefits of it. But surely we are not mistaken in thinking that these very contemporaries have frequently denounced the protective system as essentially immoral, iniquitous and outrageous. Why should good men encourage other good men to take a hand in such infamies? How can they ever again thunder at the outrages perpetrated in the name of protection in Pittsburgh, let us say, if they uphold these wicked practices for the benefit of those near home? Is it not a fact that delegations of high tariff seekers from the South, the once staunch enemy of protection, justify the idea in Congress that the South is abandoning its old tariff principles and "turning protection"? Is it not a fact that every such delegation gives fresh indorsement to the protective idea, and helps to fasten more and more securely upon the people the institution which our esteemed contemporaries once referred to as the "robber tariff"?

The Times-Dispatch is second to nobody in its earnest desire to promote the happiness and prosperity of Virginia. It believes, however, that there are prices too great for Democratic spokesmen to pay for the bettered condition of a few, and the embarrassment and weakening of the whole campaign for an honest tariff is one of them. So far as this newspaper's understanding goes, an increasing demand for protection in the Democratic party inevitably means one of two things. It means either that large numbers of Democrats must pass over into the Republican party, or that the Democratic party must recede from its honored position on the tariff. It accordingly rests with Democratic leaders and molders of opinion either to check this demand or be prepared to face the alternatives.

DOES ELECTROCUSSION KILL?

New York prison officials have declined to permit any experiments seeking to show whether or not the electric chair kills, but New Jersey officials are more inquisitive on this point. An attempt will be made at Trenton next week to revive a man after electrocution. This particular prisoner is wished no diminution of his chance of life, but would not his resuscitation throw a rather gruesome light backward? How many supposedly "electrocuted" men have really met their deaths under the knives of the autopsy surgeons?

The original introduction of the death chair, in the State of New York, was in many places regarded as the last step in the evolution of humane sentiment toward doomed criminals. It grew out of the report of a commission of eminence appointed "to investigate and report to the Legislature the most humane and approved method," etc. Yet the statute enacting the commission's recommendation into law was actually assailed on the ground that it provided for the infliction of cruel and unusual punishment, and the matter was fought out in the courts. There it was ruled that electrocution, as designed and described, must undoubtedly result in instant and painless death. But courts are not doctors, and autopsies have occasionally revealed tissues which gave rise to certain doubts.

It is highly important that matters of life and death should be on a clearly understood basis, and the Trenton experiments will be watched with peculiar interest in States which, like Virginia, have discarded the noose for the chair.

VIRGINIA'S DIVORCE LAWS.

Judge McComore, of Norfolk, complains that the court over which he presides has degenerated into a mere divorce mill. He further takes occasion to point out that no State has laxer divorce laws than Virginia. These remarks are reproduced by the esteemed Staunton Dispatch, which rightly says that they "should arrest attention."

Census statistics recently published showed that one American couple in every twelve obtained legal separation after an average married life of ten years. Frequently the percentage of divorce has risen much higher. In Indiana, for instance, in the year 1900, there was one divorce to every 5.7 marriages. But the proportion of ruined marriages has long been high, and is now growing steadily higher in almost all the States. The lack of a uniform divorce law has given rise to various experiences, but on the whole the drift is all one way. Connecticut's reduction of her divorces from 500 in 1867 to 452 in 1900, despite increases of population, is almost unique.

South Carolina is alone among the States in permitting no divorce for any cause. Most States recognize desertion as a cause, and this is the cause reported as most common in the census bulletin. Its convenience as a kind of blanket provision is apparent. It is hardly agreeable to Virginians, but is judicially reminded that their laws governing the marriage relation are near the bottom in point of laxity, though Judge McComore could scarcely have meant to class this State with South Dakota. It seems certain that the steady strides of this evil will some day shock the people into reforms, and in such restrictive legislation Virginia might appropriately lead the way.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S LITERARY STYLE.

The observant Atlanta Journal points to the following excerpt as a fair specimen of the President's customary diffuseness:

I believe in a steady effort, or perhaps it would be more accurate to say in steady efforts in many different directions, to bring about a condition of affairs under which the men who work with hand or with brain, the laborers, the superintendents, the men who produce for the market and the men who find a market for the articles produced, shall own a far greater share than at present of the wealth they produce, etc.

Experts agree that the one really difficult thing about writing is to know what to leave out. This has long appeared Mr. Roosevelt's prime literary stumbling-block; he cannot endure to leave out anything. The sentence printed above is precisely the kind that rhetoricians array as horrible examples for young learners to "simplify." The Journal neatly says that everything worth while in it might have been expressed by "those who work with hand or brain should have a larger share in the wealth they produce."

The worst thing to be said about this verbosity of the President's is that he evidently likes it. He can write compactly when he wants to. In contrast to the tedious circumlocutions above, note this, also from the annual message:

Demolition leaves naked soil; then galling cold down to the bare rock; and manlike the rock-waste hordes, the bottom-lands. When the soil is gone, men must go; and the process does not take long.

Here is a little masterpiece of close writing, terse, swift, vivid, hard, sure and technical as a Klipspringer, spare, vigorous and stripped "down to the bare rock" of siney essentials. How can a man who knows how to scud along like this be content to mander through the morasses of prolixity?

Visitors to our city for many years have all agreed that the Richmond mistletoe is the finest in the world for getting quick results.

When Hon. Seneca E. Payne undertakes to revise a tariff schedule, he goes about it in a very dutiful frame of mind.

Why did Mr. Bryan content himself with buying just 180 acres in Texas? We have always understood that you could buy Texas very cheap.

A Texas contemporary refers to the President as "a dead volcano." It would be interesting to know this editor's conception of a live volcano.

Signor Ferrero and Mr. Walter Benjamine are invited to keep their hands off Santa Claus.

It is still possible to see your shopkeeper early for Christmas, 1908.

Would you be afraid of the President if you were Congress?

Borrowed Jingles

LIFE'S LAZY PERIOD.
 I meant to play baseball last spring.
 And swim each day in summer.
 And visit with my boy.
 Make autumn just a hummer.
 I didn't do a one of these.
 But spent my time in lazing.
 The while I did week after week
 With faculty amazing.

I also meant, when winter came,
 To take about to skating.
 Yet now that winter's really here
 I find my zeal abating.

MERELY JOKING.

Amelie Mathematics.
 Wife: "Dear, I haven't half enough money for Christmas presents."
 Husband: "What's the difference? You never get half enough presents for the money."—Puck.

At the Concert.

The Late Comer (anxiously): "How far have they got in the program?"
 Major Styling (an ardent lover): "Seven up and two to play."—Harper's Weekly.

Some Even Study.

"What do the collegians do when the baseball and football seasons are closed?"
 "They study," answered the collegian.
 "What do you study?"
 "I study to keep him busy."—Houston Chronicle.

His Position.

"I'm pulled to the busy clerks," commanded Mrs. Shoppurly.
 "I'll be pulled," responded Mr. Shoppurly.
 "I'll be hanged if I'll cringe."—Pittsburg Post.

In Case She Fainted.

"Got your smelling salts handy?" inquired the New York citizen.
 "Yes," answered Mrs. Gotham.
 "Then I think I may safely offer yonder lady my sent."—Washington Herald.

POINTS FROM PARAGRAPHERS.

We regret the necessity of calling down Granddaddy Rice for using the phrase "viciously incalculable." We have arranged with Mr. Laffan for the exclusive use of incalculable privileges in the South, and we intend to protect our rights.—Houston Post.

A South Carolina paper says: "Nobody knows the next Legislature, at all. We suppose not, anyway, it's the existing one that generally causes the worry."—Washington Herald.

One way to get ahead of the alleged wide powder trust would be for the nation's oil companies to form a trust and agree not to burn any powder.—New York Mail.

If we have excitement, Mr. Bryan should quit bear-hunting in Mexico and try better President in Hayti.—Denver Republican.

Let us hope that the Christmas spirit is not going to be diminished at all. We suppose not, anyway, it's the existing one that generally causes the worry.—Washington Herald.

Holland explains that the taking of Venezuelan ships is not a war measure. However, as a peace measure it seems almost radical.—Philadelphia Ledger.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

Samuel B. Whitney, one of the most noted organists of New England, has signed as organist of the Church of the Advent, Boston, after an almost unbroken term of thirty-six years in this position.

The present members and members-elect of the New York Congress delegation will give a dinner to Vice-President-elect Sherman some time in January. President Roosevelt and his family will be invited.

Governor Crawford, of South Dakota, favors a voluntary scheme of bank deposit guaranty, under which the State banking department to insure the payment of deposits of such banks as wish to come under the plan and accept of their solvency and pay the required tax.

William Riess, an artist of New York City, has returned from his fourth annual trip to the coast of the Pacific, where he spent the present year in the heart of the Wyoming wilds. He has brought back with him a collection of pictures taken from the Indian festivities held in connection with the sun dance.

Rev. H. Sutherland, chaplain of the Twenty-third Regiment, U. S. A., and editor of the Zambouanga Lantaka, does not believe in the existence of the Philippines. He says: "There have been more wars fought with clubs and stones than with firearms."

Probably the wealthiest woman in Paris is Mrs. A. Whitcomb, who does not speak a word of English. She is an American citizen. Forty years ago she married a lawyer who went from San Francisco to Paris for about twenty years, who never returned to America. Mrs. Whitcomb personally manages her own estate.

A returned American board missionary, Rev. Dr. John P. Jones, expresses the view that the agitation in India is inspired and directed by the British Government, but is a 99 per cent. of 300,000,000 equals no less than 6,000,000, and that number of Indian subjects of King Edward are on the verge of insurrection, they are capable of a vast amount of trouble.

How Not to Grow Old.

And now let me say that in an age when so many women are notable, it is the notable woman who is most surely young till she is suddenly old. The woman who is young is the woman who keeps her skin taut and her eyes alert, even if she turns the midnight oil. It is the drudge, with never a thought beyond pots and pans, who becomes the woman of the London omnibus. There is nothing like an intellectual interest for keeping the eyes bright and the muscles braced. It is the unbraced muscles, the flaccid skin, the lack for middle age.—London Daily Mail.

On Being Mean.

The question arises. Can one be economical without being mean? A man who is mean is surely mean, but always economical. If a man who is not economical attempts to become so, he will learn that the easiest way is first to learn to be mean. If he has a generous impulse he must curb it. During the first part of our lives we should be as mean as we can, and then we have accumulated more than we need, we should devote the last part to cultivating our generous impulses. No successful man is a philanthropist before he is fifty.—Life.

Changing Australian Speech.

The rapprochement between ourselves and the Americans will certainly have one effect. We shall find our language enriched by new words and our pronunciation of old words undergo revision. Already our speech is leaving our chest and mounting to our head, and in a little while we'll be able to do most of our talking with our lips closed as well as the most facile visitors from Vermont. "Say!" is established as a new word, and we're beginning to "guess" with the best of them. For a while the American accent is bound to have as great a vogue in conversation as have the Stars and Stripes in decorative schemes.—Sydney (N. S. W.) Mail.

The Courts of Europe

By La Marquise de Fontenay

Mr. George Young's Alpine Experience.

THE GEORGE YOUNG, who has just arrived in London, is a young man to his son, secretary of the British embassy at Washington, is one of the survivors of a memorable Alpine tragedy, which took place in August, 1888. Sir George, with his two brothers, Albert (now rural dean of Kingston-on-Thames), and Samuel, managed to make their ascent of Mont Blanc Without guides. Being clever mountaineers, they reached the top in safety, and were on their way down, when a fall, a slipped foot, a broken bone, who were tied to him down a terrible slope of snow. Sir George and Albert escaped with relatively few injuries, but Samuel's neck was broken. The accident had been witnessed from Chamounix by means of telescopes, and a relief party, consisting of experienced guides, was immediately dispatched to the rescue. A dense fog, followed by a blinding snowstorm, and it was only with the utmost difficulty that the brothers were reached by the rescue party, who had to be lowered to the last stage of exhaustion, revived, and the dead body of Samuel brought down to Chamounix. More than forty years have elapsed since that day, and Sir George, who has had a distinguished career as chief royal charity commissioner, and in connection with the royal commissions for the home and abroad, has never forgotten this memorable and tragic adventure, nor his own altogether miraculous escape from death.

Sir George is a poet of no mean order, has published a number of volumes of verse, his gifts in that direction having probably come to him through his father, who was a poet. He is a man of letters, and his tastes are to be seen in the fact that he has translated the works of Whittier, Macmillan, and other poets. He is a man of letters, and his tastes are to be seen in the fact that he has translated the works of Whittier, Macmillan, and other poets. He is a man of letters, and his tastes are to be seen in the fact that he has translated the works of Whittier, Macmillan, and other poets.

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STATE PRESS

Keep the South Solid.

The Solid South, with its 157 votes in the electoral college, is the nucleus around which the rehabilitation of the Democratic party must take place. Destroy the Solid South, make all the Southern States doubtful, and the Democratic party is destroyed forever. What will be the result of this destruction? It will be the result of the destruction of the only party of the people existing to-day. The Republican party, which means the wealth of the country, will rule for at least twenty years without opposition. Mr. Taff says it is better for this country to have two strong parties and a strong and a weak party, than to have one strong party and a weak party. The very argument that he uses to break the Solid South is a good argument in favor of the Solid South. But this result will not be permanent. To break the Solid South is to leave one party—the Republican—in absolute control, with only the semblance of opposition, but only for a while. As was the case when the old Federal party died, leaving the Jeffersonian or Democratic party without opposition, the Republican party would in a while divide, though it would be a much longer time doing so than in the case of the early years of the Republic. But it would divide, and a party would arise to join to see the Solid South broken, but he who believes that the best interests of the country would be served by the administration of one of the two big parties as they exist to-day, he is a Democrat or Republican, should see with wisdom any attempt to break the Solid South. That consummation would lead inevitably to the destruction of the party and the strengthening of the other line.—Lynchburg Advance.

Meeting the Situation.

The Tobacco Association of Danville has sent a delegation to Washington to ask for increased duties on Turkish cigarettes in order to give better protection to the home product.

The Chesapeake and Potomac Rivers and Harbors Commission has been organized. It will be the duty of the commission to make a study of the rivers and harbors of the Chesapeake and Potomac, and to report to the Congress on the best way to improve them.

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